



Working together to strengthen
and support noxious weed
management efforts in Montana
www.mtweed.org

EXHIBIT 5
DATE 2/20/2015

From the desk of 553
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
BECKY KINGTON
Becky.kington@mtweed.org

February 19, 2015

Dear Representative Mark Noland & Natural Resource Committee

Re: HB525 and HB553

The Montana Weed Control Association is dedicated to working together to strengthen and support noxious weed management efforts in Montana, and hosts a membership of over 900. We encourage your support in the formation of an aquatic species trust fund as well as revising the laws related to aquatic invasive species.

The Montana Noxious Weed Trust Fund is the only one of its kind in the nation and it greatly helps on-the-ground management and public education on noxious weeds at the local level. However, if the Trust Fund is to continue to benefit terrestrial weed management in our state, we could not afford to fund many aquatic species without adversely impacting the successes and efforts with terrestrial weeds.

Our neighbors in Idaho are spending millions to try to manage Eurasian watermilfoil and now that we have this aquatic invasive plant in Montana, the best we can do is management and prevention. This effort will require an AIS Trust Fund to help counties and weed managers in Montana.

The new language in HB553 is also supported by our Association. Check stations are critical to preventing aquatic invasives from entering our state. Any legislation that will facilitate a better process for our check stations to function effectively in Montana is a benefit to the invasives cause.

We would greatly appreciate your support in HB525 and HB553.

Sincerely,

Becky L Kington

Becky Kington
MWCA Executive Director